

---

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



---

Contact:	Petersburg Area Office
Troy Thynes	16 Sing Lee Alley
Tom Kowalske	Petersburg, Alaska 99983
Phone: (907) 772-3801	Date: April 20, 2012
Fax: (907) 772-9336	Time: 8:45 a.m.

---

#### **PETERSBURG/WRANGELL HERRING UPDATE #3**

The department conducted aerial surveys of Ernest Sound on April 9, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19 and of Windham Bay, Hobart Bay, and Port Houghton on April 18. Survey conditions were good to excellent with light winds and partly cloudy skies for most of the week. Fisheries will not occur in either Ernest Sound or Hobart Bay/Port Houghton this spring.

##### Ernest Sound

Today's flight was the 6<sup>th</sup> flight of the Ernest Sound area. Active spawn started on April 16 with approximately 2.5 nm in several different locations with the majority around Vixen Inlet and Onslow Island. Spawning has occurred every day since it began and continues for both Vixen inlet and Onslow Island.

##### Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

Yesterday was the first aerial survey of the Hobart Bay/ Port Houghton area. There was very little activity in the Windham/Hobart/Houghton area with only one whale observed and a total of 50 sea lions scattered between Windam Bay and Port Houghton. There were approximately 250-300 sea lions observed hauled out on Sunset Island. No herring schools or herring spawn were observed. The average date of first observed active spawn over the past 10 years is April 28.

#### **2012 Herring Summary**

##### Ernest Sound

April 9	No herring activity, 15 sea lions.
April 13	No herring activity, 15 sea lions.
April 16	2.5 nm active spawn, 105 sea lions.
April 17	2.75 nm active spawn, 100 sea lions, 2 whales.
April 18	2.0 nm active spawn, 16 schools of herring, 92 sea lions.
April 19	2.25 nm active spawn, 15 schools of herring, 130 sea lions.

##### Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

April 18	No herring activity, 50 sea lions.
----------	------------------------------------

The next aerial survey will be conducted Friday, April 20 and will include Ernest Sound and Hobart Bay/Port Houghton.

Petersburg/Wrangell herring updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
<i>Herring Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905			